

about what each is going to do. Each is going to do this and each is going to do that, and this is going to happen and that is going to happen. Very little mention was made in that debate about Congress.

Congress has to be a partner in carrying out whatever plans the winning candidate may have in this respect and in other respects. So don't leave out Congress, my friends. Congress is very much a partner. I hope both candidates will recognize that in their future debates. They will think of Congress because it takes help from Congress, because Congress is made up of the elected representatives of the people. You have to have Congress on your side, whoever becomes President. We will sit down together and put all of our interests on the table.

We should judge the success of our energy strategy by how it affects the average person. How will it benefit farmers, coal miners, home owners, and truck drivers? We need to help create more jobs and an even stronger economy and ensure that the U.S. does not quiver each time that OPEC tries to flex its muscles. We must not allow ourselves to be swayed by the winds of the current political movement. The American people are not fools. They realize that last-minute, short-term, quick-fix solutions do little to address the underlying problem: the need for comprehensive national energy policy. It is my hope that Congress will begin to take a serious look at energy security legislation in the 107th Congress. Mr. President, I stand ready to meet these challenges.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF SENATOR CONNIE MACK

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Florida, CONNIE MACK, has decided to retire from the Senate after serving two successful terms. This Senator from the Sunshine State has served his people and his country well.

Following graduation from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing, the young Senator-to-be began a successful sixteen-year career as a community banker. Quickly emerging as a local civic leader in Cape Coral, FL, he fought to ensure access to vital health care services in his community by leading the effort to build a local hospital.

Heeding the call of greater professional challenge, CONNIE MACK entered the political arena when he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, a position he would occupy for the next six years. As a member of the House, he was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the Nation's most effective "rising political stars." His sincere dedication to public service and love for the art and the process of legislating further pro-

pelled him to seek and win a seat in the United States Senate.

It is obvious that his Florida constituents understand and appreciate the degree of skill, dedication, and integrity that Senator MACK has brought to his work. And, as Republican Conference Chairman and third-ranking member of the Senate Republican leadership, it is obvious that his Republican colleagues have understood and valued those qualities in Senator MACK as well.

In 1994, Senator MACK had the distinguished honor of being the first Republican in Florida history to be reelected to the U.S. Senate. He received 70 percent of the vote, more than any other Republican Senate candidate in the nation. In that same year, Senator MACK was named by Campaigns and Elections magazine as one of the 20 most popular elected officials in America.

Mr. President, no Senator has fought more vigorously to protect and preserve the jewel-green waters, the soft, white beaches, and the inland springs that comprise the immense natural beauty of the marvelous peninsula he so effectively represents. He has been an ardent supporter of restoring the natural history and the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades, a true national treasure. Most recently, Senator MACK played a large role in the recent Senate passage of the largest environmental restoration project in history—a \$7.8 billion effort to rescue the Florida Everglades from years of environmental degradation.

Senator MACK has been driven by his personal commitment to doing all that he can to provide a better, healthier life for all Americans and people of the world. He has worked long hours, and with great determination, in an effort to see that Federal dollars are wisely used to combat breast cancer, prostate cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. The junior Senator from Florida has long realized the importance of providing researchers with the tools necessary to continue the tremendous advances being made in biomedical research.

In the Senate, CONNIE MACK has been a true champion of the fight against cancer. He impressively co-chairs the Senate Cancer Coalition with Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN to heighten awareness of cancer research, early detection programs, improving cancer prevention, and exploring various innovative cancer treatment options. Senator MACK and his wife Priscilla, have both escaped the clutches of cancer, and have led the charge to ensure that all Americans take to heart the message that early detection of cancer saves lives. The Senator and his wife have received numerous honors and awards in their crusade against cancer, such as the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship Ribbon of Hope Award in 1998 and the National Coalition for Cancer Re-

search Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

Drawing upon his experience as a community banker, Senator MACK played a key role in defining the framework of landmark legislation in the Senate to modernize our nation's banking laws and offer more convenience for consumers. I supported this legislation. It has helped to shape the financial industry, enabling more efficient and appropriate responses to the burgeoning demands of an aggressive global marketplace.

And so, Mr. President, as he prepares to leave the Senate, I offer my sincere gratitude to Senator CONNIE MACK for his professionalism, for his friendship, for his leadership, for his candor, and for his many years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Always a gentleman, and that means a lot in this body and in life, he brought to this Senate floor and to his committee work some of the best that Florida has to offer this Nation—a willingness to work hard, to make tough and principled decisions, and to seek common ground in order to serve the common good. It is these notable qualities which will be so sorely missed.

I wish my distinguished colleague from the Sunshine State well.

Next week I will have something to say about other colleagues who are retiring and about whom I have yet to state a farewell message.

I yield the floor.

HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to note my deep disappointment that hate crimes legislation has been dropped from the Department of Defense authorization bill in conference, despite the fact that both the Senate and the House have voted to include it. This is a major step backward for our commitment to civil rights.

The Senate passed the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2000, sponsored by Senators KENNEDY and GORDON SMITH, on June 20 by a strong bipartisan vote of 57-42. This legislation would strengthen current law by making it easier for federal authorities to investigate and prosecute crimes based on race, color, religion, and national origin. It also focuses the attention and resources of the federal government on the problem of hate crimes committed against people because of their sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

The Senate bill also shows full respect for principles of federalism. It strengthens Federal jurisdiction over hate crimes as a back-up, but not a substitute, for state and local law enforcement. It has received strong bipartisan support from state and local law enforcement organizations across the country, support that is particularly significant to me as a former prosecutor.